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THE COLONIAL MEDICINE CHART

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THE COLONIAL MEDICINE CHEST

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We now, kindly open the Portal of the "Colonial Medicine Chest" without knowing ———— and the practice of Medicine and Surgery in the Early and Middle Ages. For Health has always been the first requirement in the human welfare. It is impossible for us to fully enjoy life without it. Without health sometimes it is difficult for us to perceive even the necessities of life let alone the

PAPER READ BEFORE

LEBANON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 13, 1929

The doctor with the power who could command for the afflicted was the village physician and that he which the sick would depend upon for the cure of the disease.

Plagues with all their horror were given to the B. C. and had any other as in the present. ———— and the value of a physician. When Moses was leading the Israelites out of Egypt he made well equipped order for him, and laid down laws for keeping the names of the Israelites healthy.

Many that have been in Egypt and returned home with fatal contagious diseases. BY ———— study how spreading the plague from the healthy to the sick. That disease was spread of the disease. ———— MISS FRANCES ELIZABETH SMITH

LEBANON, PENNSYLVANIA

In the present time who plague, which was given B. C., that disease is due to some violation of the human body, and not induced because of some sin.

The dead human body was moved up the person as they were forbidden to mutilate it in any way. In Egypt ———— was forbidden to Egypt where the dead B. C. is. There was no knowledge passed from one generation

VOL. IX

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THE COLONIAL MEDICINE CHEST

We can hardly open the Portals of the "Colonial Medicine Chest" without knowing something about the practice of Medicine and Surgery in the Early and Middle Ages. For Health has always been the first requisite to the human welfare. It is impossible for us to fully enjoy life without it. Without health sometimes it is difficult for us to provide even the necessities of life let alone the luxuries.

All disease was thought to be due to supernatural causes up to about 400 years B. C. It was always considered the bad influence of evil spirits or an affliction sent by the gods.

The doctors were the priests who would intercede for the afflicted one by various ceremonies and rites by which the evil spirits would depart from the body of the patient.

History tells of but one man prior to 400 B. C. who had any idea as to the necessity of cleanliness and sanitation or the value of a proper diet. While Moses was leading the Israelites out of Egypt he made and enforced rules for diet, and laid down laws for keeping the camps of the Israelites sanitary.

Moses also knew how to distinguish non-contagious diseases from contagious diseases, for he made laws separating the lepers from the healthy Israelites, thus checking the spread of the disease. The laws being strictly observed no doubt had saved the Israelilish race.

It was Hippocrates who taught, about 400 years B. C., that disease is due to some violation of the laws of living, and not inflicted because of some sin.

The dead human body was sacred to the ancients so they were forbidden to mutilate it in any way. In spite of this a human body was dissected in Egypt about the year 300 B. C. There wasn't any knowledge gained from said dissection.

For a period of sixteen hundred years, from 400 B. C. to about 1200 A. D., there seems to have been practically little, if any, progress made in the medical science.

But early in the fourteenth century the Senate of Venice passed a law that one dead body a year could be dissected and used for the study and teaching of the structure of the human system. In the year 1316 a book was written which served as a text book in schools for more than 200 years.

When another book was written in the sixteenth century it was discovered the book of 1316 contained many errors.

During all this time surgery was practiced by barbers because nearly all the physicians were priests and they were forbidden to shed blood.

At this period someone had an intelligent glimmer of how to keep health for we find this verse:

"If thou to health and vigor would'st attain
Shun mighty cares, all anger deem profane,
From heavy suppers and much wine abstain:
Nor trivial count it after pompous fare
To rise from table and take to air.
Shun idle noon-day slumber, nor delay
The urgent calls of nature to obey."

These would be considered good health laws even to this day.

Early in the seventeenth century something was learned of the gland system. The mucus membrane and its functions were slowly beginning to be understood. The circulation of the blood was discovered by Harvey. Up till this time it had been thought that the arteries had carried air to all parts of the body. Because of this supposed use they had been called "arteries," meaning air from the Greek word Aero.

Now we come to the opening of the portals of the "COLONIAL MEDICINE CHEST" but one can hardly open the doors or if the doors should be a room, or closet, which very

often happened, or a drawer, without unfolding the glorious history of art, invention, astronomy, Medical and Pharmaceutical science of the progressive eighteenth century. For it was during this period, like there always is after wars of duration, a marked advance in all scientific lines.

The history of the Medicine Chest of Europe cannot be separated from the Medicine Chest of the Colonies, for Europe had her Eagle Eye upon the medicines and sciences of the new world from a mercenary and commercial standpoint just as much as the wise sovereigns had their hearts set upon the land for their political furtherment. So, as today, the Colonies depended upon Europe for supplies and Europe depended upon the Colonies.

It is unnecessary to discuss the profound changes in the industry of the times, which came through the replacement of human brute force by automatic mechanical devices. One we should recall here and that is the invention of the Cotton Gin by Eli Whitney in 1793. You know it was the wife of General Green who gave him both moral and financial help when he was about ready to give up.

The eighteenth century saw the contributions of many great men. For instance, there was Blackstone, the great lawyer; Handel, Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and Gluck, the musicians; Pope, Steel, Goldsmith and Addison with Burns, Voltaire and Goethe, the authors. There was Josiah Wedgwood the Potter whose daughter was the mother of Charles Darwin. Goethe's Faust shows the author as an alchemistic mystician for he was familiar with, and much interested in, the occult art. There was the Geologist Hutton whose son founded the Huttons of the Colonies. The glorious eighteenth also showed the trend of the minds of the times.

But Benjamin Franklin, a poor boy, was, including all human endeavor, the most intellectual giant of the progressive 18th, (he was of the new world, just one of the Colonists). He was, and still is, one of the most versatile characters the world has

ever seen. His name is connected with economics, ethics, education, geology, electricity and meteorology. Franklin was one of the most astute politicians of the times, his influence helped to establish the American Independence. He was a writer, philosopher, printer, and inventor. Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence, established the first Hospital of the new world in Philadelphia, Penna., Pennsylvania Hospital, the Philadelphia Free Library, and the "Junto" the outcome of which is the American Philosophical Society. He sold drugs for a while for a living, having a store and peddling them. He was also familiar with medicine, having published a number of articles both on medicine and pharmacy, and by giving encouragement to John Morgan when he so greatly needed it. John Morgan later became one of the foremost physicians of the times.

The first Medical Society of the Colonists was founded in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1751. Fourteen years later the first Medical School was founded in Philadelphia (1765) which later became a part of the University of Pennsylvania. In the same year the Philadelphia Medical Society came into existence. The first daily newspaper, called the "Philadelphia Packet" or "Daily Advisor", was printed in Philadelphia in 1784.

The establishment of the American Independence in 1776, and the French Revolution of 1793, were the great political upheavals of the century.

After the French and Indian War of 1763 a number of the Medical Staff of the British army of occupation remained and taught the Colonists Medicine, as did also the Hessian Doctors when they remained after the Revolution.

● Dr. Schoef of the Hessian army, who remained here after the Revolution, saw the merits of the Colonies. He severely criticized the Americans for importing all their drugs when they could produce better ones for they had all the material here.

So we cannot overlook in the "Colonial Medicine Chest" the great and renowned botanists whose contributions made it possible for the Doctors to know the new herbs and plants with their healing qualities.

There was Carl Von Linne who placed the science of botany upon its firm foundation by adopting the binomial system of nomenclature which is still used today in all fields of Natural Science.

The renowned Dr. Benjamin Smith Barton, whose gardens held the greatest of treasures of both Europe and America, is dear to every true American. The writer hopes that we will live to see the seeming shame of Philadelphia's neglect pass and to have restored Barton's Gardens to their full glory upon the banks of the Schuylkill River. Dr. Barton's "Flora Philadelphia" is a classic, it helped to awaken the interest in Materia Medica.

Gotthilf Henry Ernestus Muhlenberg was the youngest surviving son of the Patriarch Henry Melchior Muhlenberg. He was born Nov. 17, 1753, at the Trappe in Montgomery county. He was educated at the Halle University in Germany. When 17 years old he was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Philadelphia when he assisted his father in Philadelphia and New Jersey and in 1774 he was elected the third regular pastor to the Philadelphia Church. Because of his outspoken loyalty to Congress he had to flee from Philadelphia to prevent the execution of many atrocious threats on the part of the Tories.

For several years he was without a congregation. During this time he made a thorough research in Botany and Mineralogy and laid the foundation of his future eminence in those branches of science.

In 1780 he became pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, Pa., and remained their pastor until his death May 23, 1815. He is buried in the grave yard of Trinity church.

Dr. Muhlenberg was instrumental in the foundation of Franklin College and was elected its first president June 5, 1787. He preached the dedication service in German, which was published the next day. With a co-author, Benedict Schi-pher, he published a German dictionary.

While his services as pastor may be forgotten, except by his faithful congregation, he will always be remembered for describing and discovering directly 100 new species of flora and, correctly speaking, about 80 more varieties should be added to the above 100. His labors in this direction have not been surpassed by any of the early explorers except possibly Michaux. His name as a Botanist is imperishable for it has been given to different grasses, and various plants, and so long as this world endures so will the name of Gotthilf Henry Ernestus Muhlenberg.

Philadelphia was in existence seventy years before it had its first apothecary shop. It was placed in the Pennsylvania Hospital at Eighth and Pine Streets, and is still in existence.

Jonathan Roberts was its first apothecary, or druggist, in fact he was the very first druggist on the continent and was paid \$39.00 per year for his services.

Dr. John Morgan took Jonathan Robert's place as the second apothecary of the Pennsylvania Hospital, and he was also the second druggist in America.

The record of the establishment of America's first drug store still exists in the handwriting of Benjamin Franklin who at the time was the clerk of the Pennsylvania Hospital.

The famous Dr. John Morgan's name has already been given by the writer but I do feel that we are all anxious to know a little of the biography of each of the doctors mentioned in this paper for we then realize that we know them just a bit better.

Dr. John Morgan was graduated from the College of Phila-

delphia (founded by Benjamin Franklin), then went to Europe and returned in 1765 to found and establish the first medical school of any College in the new world.

This school became a part of the University of Pennsylvania under the act of the Penna' Legislature of 1791. Dr. Morgan was the first teacher of the theory and practice of medicine and also pharmaceutical chemistry in America.

From the Pennsylvania Gazette for September 26, 1765, the following was taken: "A course of lectures on Materia Medica by John Morgan M. D.—Price 4 Pistoles." In another column there was full detailed information of the purpose of the course which stated it would last until the pupil was finished, probably three or four months.

Dr. Benjamin Rush followed Dr. Morgan as the chief physician of the hospital. He wrote the following letter when he applied for the position:
Gentlemen:

As the professorship of chemistry which Dr. Morgan has sometime supplied is vacant, I beg to offer myself as a candidate for it. Should you think to honor me with the chair, you may depend upon my doing anything that lies within my power to discharge the duties of a professor or to promote the reputation and interest of your college.

I have the honor to be, with greatest respect, your most obedient humble servant,

Benj. Rush.

Philadelphia, July 31st, 1769.

Benjamin Rush was born in Philadelphia and was one of the city's foremost citizens. He was a member of the Continental Congress of 1776 and signed the Declaration of Independence; he was also a member of the Convention of 1778. He was treasurer of the Mint from 1799 to 1813. While at the University Hospital he instituted the first dispensary of the new

world, and there made many medical discoveries which have contributed second to none to the Medical Science.

From the 3,500 physicians in this country at the time of the American Revolution only about 500 of them held European degrees.

In 1775 the American Congress provided for one Director General and Staff Physician at \$4.00 per diem, one apothecary at \$1.34 per diem. The title of Apothecary General was used in the Army for fifty years.

Dr. William Brown was appointed the first Physician General to the Hospitals of the United States and, while at the Continental Hospital at Lititz, Lancaster Co., Pa., compiled the first Pharmacopoeia in America. It was in Latin and published in Philadelphia, Pa., in 1778; there were two editions of it. Thus the Colonies saw its first locally published work on the drug business.

Another of Pennsylvania's noted doctors was Dr. Bodo Otto Sr., Senior Surgeon General of the Continental Army. He was senior Surgeon General, Hospital Middle Department of the Continental Army, and served to the end of the War. His services were volunteered. Dr. Otto took the oath of allegiance May 25, 1778, while serving the Colonies.

Dr. Otto was a delegate to the Provincial Conference which met in Philadelphia, Pa., Carpenter's Hall, June 18, 1776, for Berks, Lebanon and Lancaster Counties. He was born in the Kingdom of Hanover, Germany, 1709, was named after Baron Bodo, his sponsor at his christening. He was married three times, viz: Elizabeth Sauchen Dickmucher, 1736; Dorothea Doescmichen, 1742; and Margaret Parish, 1768. Died in Reading, Penna., June 13, 1778, and is buried where stands the present chapel of the Trinity Lutheran Church. He was one of Reading's foremost citizens in politics, medicine and philanthropy.

With Dr. Otto at Valley Forge were his two sons, Dr. Bodo

Otto Jr. and Dr. John Otto. Both were Colonels of the army. Bodo Jr. gave up a Judgeship of Gloucester Co. N. J., to go with his father as a surgeon. He wrote the Otto Reports that are still used today by many lawyers. His son, John Conrad, took Benjamin Rush's chair at the University Hospital and worked side by side with him, 1793, trying to rid Philadelphia of its 10,000 cases of yellow fever in 100 days; the chief remedy given to the patient was rhubarb and calomel.

It was Dr. John Conrad Otto who wrote, in 1803, "an investigation of a family of bleeders," which was the first account of the condition in literature.

We can see today his father's (Colonel Bodo Otto, M.D.) and grandfather's (Sr. Surgeon General Bodo Otto, M.D.) instruments that they used for surgical operations at Valley Forge, which are some of Reading's most treasured historic relics. His grandfather's picture keeps vigil over the meetings of the Valley Forge Commissioners.

Then there was Brigadier General Hugh Mercer, the close friend of General George Washington, who was a physician and apothecary of note as well as a soldier of fame.

He practised medicine and had an apothecary shop in what was Greensburg, Penna., which has been changed to Mercersburg in his honor. Later he opened the first apothecary shop in Frederick, Maryland, with a partner named Clement.

It is said that George Washington had a desk in Mercer's Store from 1764 to 1776 where he transacted all of his business, perched on a high stool.

There is a statue erected at Fredericksburg, Maryland, in his honor by the approval, in 1777, of Congress, but was not put into place until 1902 just 125 years later, so you see Congress has never moved very rapidly.

"Sacred to the memory of Hugh Mercer, Brigadier General in the Army of the United States. He died on the 12th of January, 1777, of the wounds he received on the 3rd of the

same month, near Princeton, N. J., bravely defending the liberties of America. The Congress of the United States, in testimony of his virtues and their gratitude, has caused this monument to be erected."

Dr. Henry William Stoy, born March 14, 1758, Herborn, Germany, died Sept. 14, 1801, and buried at Host Church, Bucks Co., was the only physician in Lebanon City (Steitztown) during the 18th century. Dr. Stoy was not only a physician but he was an itinerant preacher and supplied the pulpit at Hill Church. He was also a politician, going to the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1774. He wrote a paper on "The Present Mode of Taxation".

George Washington sent one of his trusted servants to Dr. Stoy for his cure for Hydrophobia and his Hysterical drops of "Mutter troffen" for the use of the army. This gave the doctor quite a bit of notoriety.

While there are a number of his descendants living in the county today, none bear the name of Stoy.

Nearly every one of the great physicians of that day stood upon a pedestal of his own. Many of these let it be known that they were in possession of private and secret remedies which were superior to all others.

Usually all of the physicians had at least two apprentices whose duty it was mostly to curry the doctor's horse, keep his pestles and mortars clean, and to help compound the Yarba (herbs).

Nearly all of the physicians who had apothecary shops had signs, or, as we would say today, trade marks; just as the hosteleries of the times had. For instance, Dr. Christopher Marshall of Philadelphia, whose commission was dated 1776, had a "Golden Ball" in the front of his Drug Store. Then there was the Dove, Eagle, Mortar, Unicorn, Bell, Deer and many others.

The circumstances under which the colonists lived, during

this period on the continent, made it difficult for them to have a doctor except in cases of extreme wealth, or if they lived in a city or town where a doctor happened to reside. Thus all good house wives, the "Heime Frau" as we would say, or the lady of the manor, would be well versed in prescribing the remedies needed, or the Pastor when he came for family prayer, if anyone was sick, would tell them what to brew. Then there was the traveling Tinker with his prescriptions which were guaranteed to cure. The Yarba Man, with his herbs, and the Pow Wower with his magic. The Indian Medicine Man, usually the chief of the tribe, would give his herbs to a friendly white.

There is a bronze statue standing today upon the crest of the hill at Strawberry Mansion, Philadelphia, of the Indian Medicine Man upon his horse overlooking the Schuylkill River. The writer has often wondered, in passing, if the Chief with his hand over his eyes is trying to get the perspective of the territory to find his way to the Home of the Benedict Arnolds, the Shippens, or the Franks. She will never know but her fancy may dream on.

Neighbor would nurse neighbor. They would give their choicest herbs from their medicine chests in cases of necessity. Each housewife would brew a great many of the medicines the family would use. Many had their own Yarba gardens or would send their servants to the woods for the herbs they did not have or could not raise. The kettles for the Yarba were always ready. One could find it simmering on the hearth at nearly all times, for the simples were gathered in their season and tied for use at a moment's notice.

Medicine was so high very few could afford it; in fact until an act of Legislature was passed to stop the exorbitant prices for pills it cost anywhere from \$5.00 to \$25.00 for one prescription.

Dr. Garth has left us the following poem which shows what the people thought of this outrage:

"Thrice happy were those golden days of old,
When, dear as Burgundy, pistans were sold,
When patients choose to die with better will,
Then live to pay the 'pothecaries bill."

Why a two ounce bottle of Gout Remedy cost \$5.00 which was mostly sarsaparilla, which was the principal contents of all patent medicine of that period. So we see why so many had their herb gardens, and we can understand the value of the great secrecy in compounding these miraculous remedies and why they were sedulously concealed.

The Pennsylvania Germans held some of the most precious and effective of the secrets of these receipts, and I am told, on good authority, that even today a great many of the prescriptions are compounded from the "Colonial Medicine Chest."

We all know and I am sure have used many of the following recipes. For instance, if you have a cold that is annoying you, you would have been given:

(a) Horehound tea, or a thimble of rum with horehound candy.

(b) Hot cup of (Huller Berrie) Elderberry wine made from the very ripe Elderberries.

(c) Cold Salvia tea made from the flower.

(d) Now, if your cold was very bad, you would have been given a cupful of (dorchwoks) boneset tea. If this didn't help you nothing would, for the taste should cure you.

Suppose your ear ached, the man of the house would take his gun and go out and fetch a rabbit. He would bring it to the good House Frau with some pine needles with white gum, then she would prepare them into a soothing medicine which would cure the pain.

For instance, a drop of Hassa Fat salve (rabbit fat oil) would be put into the ear.

Or (beind wax) Pine needle gum dipped in (drum) whiskey.

Red pepper (rota peffer) put on sheep wool and put in the ear

Smoke from a pipe would be blown in the ear and then some of the lovely homespun linen wound around the head to keep the warmth in. I should think the charm of the old linen alone would have cured one.

As today, so in the colonists' time, consumption was one of the most dreaded of diseases; if one had it they would be given (Biskots Fat) four tablespoonfuls of Skunk oil and a thimble of (snopfs) brandy.

Horse's hoofs ground fine, mixed with brown homemade soap and given in the form of pills.

Then there was the Ehrinbrise tea used for both a cold or asthma

For Rheumatism use an Eel's skin tied around the wrist or (geilskest blumte tea) Horsechestnut flower blooms are steeped in drum (whiskey) and given to the patient.

The horsechestnut was always gathered in the fall and carried in one's pocket throughout the winter.

Sulphur, that is the powdered sulphur, was dusted in one's shoes and worn with the same woollen stockings for at least a month.

Those who would have asthma:

Would smoke the Jimson weed in their pipes or would dry the sweet fern and then revel in smoking it.

They would drink the tea from the sweet fern.

With Cancer the ripe Pokeberries were gathered and made into a plaster with (smols) lard.

If your stomach ached (shofriba) Yarrow tea would be used.

(Kebider tea) Tansey tea would be taken, two cupfuls at a time, steeping hot.

But you might prefer hot peppermint tea.

(Warmut) wormwood tea would be steeped and taken by the wine glassful.

For a Spring Tonic the (sasafros) Sassafras bark was made into a tea.

Sulphur and Molasses were eaten by the spoonful or you would eat Dandelion salad three times a week, but if you had liver complaint you would revel in the Dandelion roots.

Suppose you came home with a sprained foot, you would have it tied in (Hund fat) dog fat or with (Kasbola) mullen salve.

If you had run a nail in your foot you would have salt pork tied under the place where the nail went in.

If, after tramping out in the snow to see if all was well with the farm, your feet should be frozen, you would go immediately for the coal oil bottle, or can, put enough coal oil in a pan to cover your feet and keep them in it until they thawed.

Or, if it should be in the spring or summer and you should get poison, you would use a smear of:

- (a) (shelagrout salve) celandine salve.
- (b) spread (fet) lard over the poison.
- (c) seiorabledwergrich salve) made from plantain.

If you have sore eyes you would use the (Zwilva Snay waser) snow water taken from the onion snow and bottled.

Then there was the baby always having the colic, the mother would give it: (katzagrout) catnip hot or cold.

When the children teathed, they were given an orris root to chew. If they had worms they were given, for supper, ground pumpkin seed on bread with molasses.

For summer complaint ground walnuts, taken green, were

put in whiskey and given at three hour intervals. Then there was the (schwartz Berrie) Blackberry put in (drum) whiskey and taken the same way. If it was very bad, a spice flannel poultice made of ground alspices soaked in (drum) whiskey was tied around the baby's stomach and worn the entire summer. This is one of the best remedies known.

Often the child was given (Kaussa Bounce) Cherry Bounce, a half wine glass full at a time.

If a dog should bite the children, they were treated with an onion and indigo poultice.

Should a bee sting them, homemade brown soap was shaved and made into a thick gum consistency and put on the sting.

For a burn get the coal oil bottle and pour it on, or go and smear it with butter (butter).

For convulsions, the feet were put in hot water and the palm of the hands were rubbed with salt.

For a tight chest an onion and corn meal poultice was made very hot and put on the patient.

If the (wassersuch) kidneys were weak, or one had dropsy, you would drink (grudabolosm ta) Pennyroyal tea. Horsetail tea, Polkberry wine or dung water.

When the good "Heime Frau," or housewife, burned herself, the burn was covered with (weissa lillia) soaked in (drum) whiskey, or a schmear of Balsam salve.

If the throat was sore that you could not swallow, it was tied up in:

(a) (Gans fat) Goose fat wound around a cord and put on red flannel.

(b) A black woollen stocking, so dirty that when you threw it across the room and it hit the wall it would stay, was tied around the neck and the patient usually got well.

- (c) The neck was massaged with vinegar and butter, or
- (d) You were given a gargle of Molasses and water.
- (e) A hot baked onion was tied to the sole of the feet.
- (f) Or perhaps you gargled with sage and alum.

When George Washington was taken ill, for the last time, the good women of the household made him gargle with vinegar and butter, molasses water, then drink sage tea, and mustard blisters were put to his feet before they sent for his overseers to bleed him and before sending for the three doctors.

Not only did the medicine chest contain herbs to cure but it contained remedies to prevent sickness.

For instance, to prevent sickness, live spiders were kept on hand and put in a bag which was hung around the neck; when this spider died, the danger of catching the disease of the moment was over.

Nearly every one wore an asafefida bag. I do believe the germs were afraid to come near on account of its dreadful odor if there was any truth in it being a preventative; many made each member of the house eat a tiny bit of it for breakfast.

A twisted black silk string was tied around the neck in October to prevent one having sore throat.

Onions were sliced and placed in every corner of the house and when they turned black the house was free from smallpox.

But whatever your ailment was you were mostly given a cup of (dorcwks) boneset tea, hot, your feet were put in a hot mustard bath before retiring, then the following day the medicine was given for your particular ailment.

To a great extent pow wowing was used; even today their secrets are carefully guarded and cherished. A woman could tell the secret to a man and a man to a woman, but if a woman told a woman, or vice versa, the charm would be broken and would do no earthly good.

A few of the Pow Wow Remedies were to take a piece of store string and knot it three times over one's wart, saying a versè of scripture, and then bury it under the ground where water would constantly drip.

If one was melancholy they would shave a little of the leg of the table, put it in butter, make the patient eat it, walking three times around the table, then go to bed after a piece of scripture was said.

Erysipelas was cured by drawing a red flannel over the patient, in a lying position, three times and saying a piece of scripture.

For whooping cough, after a prayer was said, you ate a concoction of bread, candy and cake with butter ground together.

To prevent the sick from dying, the newel post would be cut or marked with a cross and a prayer said.

I don't believe there is an ailment that hasn't a pow wow remedy for it.

Just think, the first patent medicine of this country appeared in 1711 in the form of "Tuscarora Rice." A mere woman, Mrs. Masters, invented and sold it. After this, patent medicines arrived in floods. The most used of these were "Jesuit Drops," Gregory Powder, Palsy Drops, Plummers Pills, Hoopers Female Pills, Lancaster or Black Drops, Tar Water was used to a great extent. Do you know people even thought that every substance could be made into a remedy by distillation? Thus, Oil of Bricks, which was made by putting a brick into oil that was boiling hot.

We could go on and on with the medicines of this Colonial Medicine Chest of the Eighteenth Century; but we must remember that with it we cannot overlook that much of it was used during the making of our wonderful country.

There has been very little honor given to the apothecaries who discovered the properties of the now renowned drugs.

Upon the tombstone of Dr. Withering was placed a Fox Glove; he was the man who discovered digitalis.

Let us cherish these old masters and preserve the old recipes by carefully putting them away with our old family Bible for they spell sorrow, joy, history and romance and have helped to give us the Patriotic American of today by preserving our pioneer ancestors.

Now as we close the drawer, the door, or the closet, of the Colonial Medicine Chest, we know the Eighteenth Century gave America some of the most patriotic Americans, the world some of its best statesmen, finest doctors, splendid mothers who gave their energy in nursing and making Yarba for the sick, to open the doors for the wonderful nineteenth and twentieth Century.

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